



## **Candidate Statement - Silver City Food Coop Board Leo Andrade**

My name is Leo Andrade. I moved to Silver City from Kansas City, Missouri where I was born and raised. I attended Bishop Miege High School and graduated with a business degree from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

I spent much of my high school and college years working for an independent grocer, Scavuzzo's Grocery, located in the Westport neighborhood of Kansas City. While my work at Scavuzzo's helped me earn money for books and clothing, it also provided me with the experience of stocking, bagging, customer service and cashiering. I became knowledgeable, through the owners, on the in's and out's of running a small neighborhood grocery store.

After graduating college I earned my Missouri real estate license and sold real estate in the Kansas City market. In the early 1990's I began working at United Missouri Bank, Missouri's second-largest banking institution. I worked through several positions, eventually working in UMB's Investment Banking department.

In 2004 my partner Lloyd and I opened a home decor and gift store in Arrow Rock, Missouri and, subsequently, a second store in Kansas City in 2006. I managed the front-end side of the business, concentrating on customer service, buying and marketing.

When we first visited Silver City in 2015 we knew immediately that Silver City was where we wanted to retire and call home. We purchased a home here in 2019 and moved full-time in August 2020.

As a household we are dedicated fans and customers of the Silver City Food Coop. I feel my qualifications to serve on the board of directors include: past experience in the grocery business, retail management and marketing background as well as customer service knowledge and experience.

I am hoping to put my skills, experience and knowledge to work serving on the Silver City Food Coop Board of Directors. I am strongly supportive of growing the Coop's presence and delivery of wholesome foods in the Silver City marketplace and am a passionate supporter of working toward making the move of the Coop to its new Pope Street location a reality.

I would appreciate your vote!

Thank you,

Leo Andrade